

REMARKS

Within the Office Action, the Claims 1-17 and 20-33 have been subject to a restriction and/or election requirement. The Restriction Requirement indicates that Group I claims (drawn to the gateway support node in combination with the serving support node are operable in response to context application request data from the mobile user equipment to establish a virtual communications channel between the gateway support node and the mobile user equipment via the serving support node) and Group II claims (drawn to an internet protocol communications layer and a user data tunnelling layer operable to provide a virtual communications channel for communicating user data between the mobile user equipment and a gateway support node of the packet radio network) are directed to distinct inventions. The Applicant notes that Group I claims include Claims 1-10, 13-17 and 20-33 and Group II claims include Claims 11 and 12.

The Applicant elects, with traverse, Group I including Claims 1-10, 13-17 and 20-33 for continued prosecution. Claims 11 and 12 have been canceled by the above amendment. The Applicant expressly reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications directed toward the non-elected groups.

By the above amendments, new Claims 34 and 35 have been added. Claims 34 and 35 are both dependent on the independent Claim 1, and therefore belong in Group I. As a result of this election and the above amendments, Claims 1-10, 13-17 and 20-35 remain pending in this application. The Applicant respectfully requests examination and reconsideration in view of the amendments above and remarks above.

For the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be greatly appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, they are encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

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